



# READING COMPREHENSION

Reading the passage. Answer the question:

## The fifth runner



Eric was on his school's track team- kind of. He was the fifth-fastest runner. Only four runners could run on a relay team. Eric was the team's alternate. The alternate doesn't get to run in the race. He only fills in if another team member can't run.

Eric worked out with his teammates every day. He would practice at home, too. Eric wore the same uniform as the other runners, but he never felt like part of the team.

One Saturday morning, Eric's team attended a track meet. Eric went with them like he always did. As his team jogged toward the start line, Dan, the team's fastest runner, twisted his ankle. He cried out in pain. Coach looked at Dan's ankle. "Dan won't be able to run today. Eric will have to take his place," Coach said. Eric realized that he would finally get to run. He was ready.

The race started out well. Eric ran. He ran as he had never run before. He passed the runner in front of him. He ran even faster. He passed another runner. Eric kept running faster. The leader was only a few feet in front of him. Eric ran with everything he had. He shot out across the finish line – finishing in the first place. His team had won! He had brought them victory.

He looked down at the cold metal baton in his hand. Then he looked around at his teammates. They carried him out on their shoulders.

### 1. What is not true about Eric?

- A. He practiced running daily with team members and at home as well.
- B. He didn't try hard in the race but he still won the first place.
- C. If one of his teammates can't run, he will have a chance to run.

### 2. Why was Eric only "kind of" on the track team?

- A. He was on the junior varsity part of the track team.
- B. As the fifth fastest runner, he was just an alternate for the relay team.
- C. He had an ankle injury that kept him from running.

### 3. Why does Eric get the opportunity to run?

- A. Another team member misses the bus to the meet.
- B. Another team member is suspended for making fun of an opposing runner.
- C. Another team member twists his ankle.

### 4. What happens when Eric finally gets an opportunity to run in a relay race?

- A. He convinces his teammate to try to run with a broken ankle.
- B. He refuses to participate out of nervousness.
- C. He eagerly accepts the opportunity to run in the race.

### 5. How does the end of "The Fifth Runner" conclude the story?

- A. Eric makes fun of an opposing runner that he beat in the last leg of the race.
- B. Eric's teammates lift him on their shoulders for winning the race.
- C. Eric's teammates ignore him for taking all of the glory.

